THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Government have seen reports in the media that some countries seek to restrict the visit of Indian scientists to those countries. There have been instances where such restrictions were imposed on India scientists. Only Canada has sent written instructions to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) that in light of India's testing of nuclear explosive devices, the Government of Canada would not welcome participation of nuclear experts from India in meetings in Canada until further notice. A few other countries have informally conveyed similar views or delayed visas to Indian scientists, Government is keeping a watch on developments in this regard.

Consulates opened by India and China

2514. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Consulates and Sub-consulates opened by the People's Republic of China in our country;

(b) the number of Consulates and Sub-consulates opened by the Government of India in China; and

(c) whether a periodic review is undertaken of the nature of work performed by these cosular offices and whether any change is contemplated in their location and activities in consultation with the Government of the People's Republic of China?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) China has a Consulate in Mumbai.

(b) India has a Consulate in Shanghai in China. We continue to maintain our Consulate General in Hong Kong after assumption of sovereignty over Hong Kong by China on July 1, 1997.

(c) A periodic review is done of the work performed by our Consulates. At present there is no proposal under consideration for relocation.

"Most Favoured Nation" status to Pakistan

2515. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has granted 'Most Favoured Nation' status to Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether Pakistan has also reciprocated;

(c) if not, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(d) what steps Government have taken to urge Pakistan to fulfil WTO obligations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (d) In accordance with its obligations under the WTO, and earlier as a signatory to GATT, India extended MFN status to Pakistan.

On the other hand Pakistan, in spite of its membership of the WTO, and earlier of GATT, has not accorded MFN status to India. Government have officially on several occasions urged Pakistan to fulfil its obligations under the WTO and extend MFN status to India. It has regrettably not done so.

Ministers of Pakistan Government have from time to time linked the grant to MFN status to India to extraneous issues.

We will continue to urge Pakistan to fulfil its obligations.

Offer of unilateral disarmament

2516. SHRI VAYLAR RAVI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has offered unilateral disarmament of the nation;

(b) if so, what are the compulsions for making such an offer; and